

REMARKS

In the November 12, 2003 Office Action, the Examiner noted that claims 1-24 were pending in the application and rejected all of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). In rejecting the claims, U.S. Patents 5,742,039 to Sato et al.; 5,126,936 to Champion et al.; and 5,974,399 to Giuliani et al. (References A, F and G, respectively) were cited. Claims 1-24 remain in the case. The Examiner's rejections are traversed below.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

In item 2 on pages 2-3 of the Office Action, claims 1 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Giuliani et al. in view of Sato et al. and in item 3 on pages 3-21 of the Office Action, claims 2-14 and 16-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Giuliani et al. in view of Sato et al. and further in view of Champion et al.

To clarify the distinctions of the present invention over the prior art, all of the independent claims have been amended to recite details of the invention described on pages 8-12 of the specification. Using claim 1 as an example, the information stored in the registered commodity data storing unit includes "a public condition, a change condition and a change price of the desired sale or purchase price for changing the desired sale or purchase price according to an elapse of time or purchase and sale states of other companies" (claim 1, lines 4-6). As indicated by use of the word "including", this information is stored with the "desired sale or purchase price of a commodity" (claim 1, lines 3-4). This enables the system to change "a price if the information about the change condition or the change price .. is satisfied, thereby providing automatic strategic price setting according to the elapse of time or the purchase and sale states of the other companies by initially setting the information about the commodity to be transacted" (claim 1, lines 8-11). In addition, this system automatically changes "from private to public the information about the commodity according to the elapse of time or transaction states of the other companies, based on the public condition" (claim 1, last two lines). Nothing has been cited or found in any of the prior art regarding any suggestion of automatic strategic price setting or automatically changing information about the commodity from private commodity information which is desired to not be disclosed to other companies, to public commodity information which can be handled similarly to a commodity having information that was public from the beginning.

Language similar to that quoted above from claim 1 is now present in all of the independent claims. Therefore, it is submitted that claims 1-24 patentably distinguish over any combination of Giuliani et al., Sato et al.; and Champion et al. Thus, it is submitted that claims

1-24 are in a condition suitable for allowance. Reconsideration of the claims and an early Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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